

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GENEVA 09808 01 OF 02 281247Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----065242 281250Z /41

P 281229Z JUN 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1421
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MASERU PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 09808

EXDIS--WNINTEL--NOFORN-COCONTRACT--ORCON

GABORONE, LUSAKA, DAR FOR AMBASSADORS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PROP, PDEV, SF, UN
SUBJECT: REPORTS OF IMPROPER UN ASSISTANCE TO LIBERATION
MOVEMENTS

REF: STATE 160603

1. MISOFF DISCUSSED GENERAL QUESTION RAISED IN PARA 3C
REFTEL "REFUGEES IN SWAZILAND", WITH OUTGOING DEPUTY HIGH
COMMISSIONER, AMCIT CHARLES MACE, WITHOUT RAISING DETAILS
PRESENTED REFTEL. MACE'S DISCRETION CAN, IN ANY EVENT,
BE TRUSTED.

2. DESPITE THE SHORTNESS OF HIS FUTURE TENURE WITH THE
ORGANIZATION, MACE DEFENDED UNHCR STRONGLY AS TO THE
CORRECTNESS OF ITS POSTURE WITH REGARD TO SUPPORT OF
"FREEDOM FIGHTERS". HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 GENEVA 09808 01 OF 02 281247Z

FOR UNHCR OFFICIALS TO DISTINGUISH "FREEDOM FIGHTERS (WHO
MIGHT THEMSELVES WELL BE CLASSED AS REFUGEES) FROM
"NORMAL" REFUGEES. THUS, THE POSSIBILITY COULD NOT BE
EXCLUDED THAT PRESENT OR FUTURE "FREEDOM FIGHTERS" WERE
PASSING THROUGH OR MAINTAINED IN CAMPS SUPPORTED BY THE
UNHCR WITHOUT BEING IDENTIFIED. SIMILARLY, IT COULD NOT
BE EXCLUDED THAT SOME ENTERING CAMPS AS BONA FIDE REFUGEES

MIGHT LATER EMERGE, AND/OR BE RECRUITED AS, GUERRILLAS. THE POINT MACE MAKES IS THAT UNHCR HAS NO MANNER OF DETECTING PRESENT OR PROSPECTIVE GUERRILLAS FROM AMONG THE MASS OF REFUGEES IT ASSISTS IN THE CAMPS. HE WAS CATEGORIC, HOWEVER, IN STATING THAT UNHCR POLICY FLATLY FORBIDS RECRUITMENT OF GUERRILLAS IN THE CENTERS IT SUPPORTS, AS WELL AS THEIR TRAINING IN THESE INSTALLATIONS. IF SUCH ACTIVITIES TAKE PLACE, HE SAID, THEY DO SO CLANDESTINELY, WITHOUT UNHCR'S APPROVAL, AND IN VIOLATION OF ITS REGULATIONS.

3. MACE LATER SUBMITTED TO THE MISSION TWO EXCERPTS OF FORMAL REPORTS ISSUED BY UNHCR WHICH TOUCH ON THIS SUBJECT:

A. THE FIRST IS AN EXTRACT FROM A REPORT ON HIGH COMMISSIONER POUL HARTLING'S TRIP TO SOUTHERN AFRICAN COUNTRIES FROM JANUARY 25 TO FEBRUARY 11, 1978, DURING WHICH HE WAS ASKED CONCERNING UNHCR'S DEALINGS WITH LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. THE TEXT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: IT WAS EVIDENT TO THE MISSION THAT AN AIR OF UNCERTAINTY CLOUDED UNHCR'S DEALINGS WITH THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. THE LATTER, NOT INFREQUENTLY, QUESTIONED UNHCR'S "DEFINITION" OF A REFUGEE, ADDING THAT THE OFFICE APPEARED ARBITRARY IN WHOM IT CHOSE TO HELP AND WHOM IT CHOSE NOT TO HELP.

AS THE MISSION PROGRESSED, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER DEFINED
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 GENEVA 09808 01 OF 02 281247Z

THE POSITION OF THE OFFICE, TO THE APPARENT SATISFACTION AND RELIEF OF GOVERNMENTS, LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND UNHCR STAFF IN THE AREA. THE COMPONENTS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

(1) UNHCR IS A HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION. ANY AID FROM THE OFFICE MUST EXCLUSIVELY BE FOR HUMANITARIAN PURPOSES.

(2) IN ACCORDING AID, UNHCR MUST FIRST RECEIVE WELL-CONCEIVED PROJECTS FROM THE PARTIES CONCERNED. THESE MUST ACCORD WITH ESTABLISHED PRINCIPLES OF U.N. ASSISTANCE: FREE ACCESS OF U.N. PERSONNEL TO PROJECT SITES AND AREAS, SCRUPULOUS ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING OF FUNDS/ASSISTANCE PROVIDED.

(3) UNHCR SOUGHT TO HELP ALL REFUGEES IN NEED, BOTH THOSE BEING ASSISTED THROUGH LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND, INDEED, THOSE DESCRIBED AS DISSIDENTS.

(4) THE OFFICE WAS INTERESTED IN ALLEVIATING IMMEDIATE DISTRESS. IT DID NOT ASK TO KNOW, NOR COULD IT KNOW, WHAT A REFUGEE WOULD DO WITH HIS LIFE AT SOME SPECULATIVE DATE IN THE FUTURE.

(5) THE DEGREE OF ASSISTANCE FROM THE OFFICE WOULD NATURALLY DEPEND ON THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS. PROJECTS SUBMITTED TO THE OFFICE SHOULD THEREFORE BE SO DEFINED AS TO ENCOURAGE DONOR-RESPONSE, NOT ALIENATE IT. END QUOTE.

B. THE SECOND IS EXTRACTED FROM A REPORT BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO THE NANSSEN COMMITTEE, DATED APRIL 11, 1978. QUOTE: REFERRING TO HIS EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH LEADERS OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WHOM HE HAD MET IN EACH OF THE COUNTRIES (OF AFRICA) CONCERNED, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER EXPLAINED THAT MEMBERS OF THESE MOVEMENTS COULD BE ASSISTED INSOFAR AS THEY WERE REFUGEES. THEY COULD THEN BENEFIT

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 GENEVA 09808 02 OF 02 281249Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----065262 281251Z /41

P 281229Z JUN 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1422
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MASERU PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 09808

EXDIS--WNINTEL--NOFORN--COCONTRACT--ORCON

FROM REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROJECTS WHICH COULD ALSO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE MOVEMENTS CONCERNED. HIS OFFICE COULD NOT, HOWEVER, JUST PROVIDE FUNDS TO THOSE MOVEMENTS FOR THE FINANCING OF THEIR OTHER ACTIVITIES. THIS VIEW WAS UNDERSTOOD BY THE GOVERNMENTS IN THE AREA. WITH REGARD TO THE SO-CALLED DISSIDENTS, I.E., REFUGEES WHO DID NOT WISH TO BE ENROLLED IN THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONSIDERED THAT THIS SHOULD IN NO WAY AFFECT THE MAN'S REFUGEE STATUS AND HIS OFFICE WAS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF THOSE DISSIDENTS WHO WERE DETAINED IN PRISON IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES, AND TO INSURE THEIR SUBSEQUENT RESETTLEMENT IN ANOTHER COUNTRY. END QUOTE.

4. COMMENT: BASED ON MACE'S REMARKS AND THE FOREGOING EXCERPTS, MISSION WOULD BELIEVE THAT, REGARDLESS WHETHER THE FIGURE BE 25 PERCENT, OR MORE OR LESS, REFUGEES

PASSING THROUGH SUCH FACILITIES DECIDE ON THEIR OWN ACCOUNT
TO JOIN THE GUERRILLA MOVEMENTS, AND THAT THE FACILITIES
THEMSELVES DO NOT SERVE AS FORMAL CENTERS FOR RECRUITMENT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 GENEVA 09808 02 OF 02 281249Z

WITH UNHCR KNOWLEDGE OR APPROVAL. IT WOULD FURTHER APPEAR
FROM THESE STATEMENTS THAT, AT LEAST FROM THE HEADQUARTERS
OPTIC, UNHCR IS NOT INVOLVED IN COMPLICITY IN REGULAR AND
RECRUITMENT. END COMMENT.
VANDEN HEUVEL

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA09808
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780267-0507
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780613/aaaaakun.tel
Line Count: 184
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1a55e57e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, NOFORN
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, NOFORN
Reference: 78 STATE 160603
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2183263
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTS OF IMPROPER UN ASSISTANCE TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS
TAGS: PROP, PDEV, SF, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1a55e57e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014